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The Flower Beautiful

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George H. Peterson

INCORPORATED

Rose and Peony Specialist
Fair Lawn, New Jersey, U.S.A.

Read Carefully Before Ordering

This catalogue is issued annually on or about August 1st, and prices quoted hold good only for the current year of publication.

Why you should order early: Many Peonies in the better grades are in limited supply and are over-sold yearly. The propagation of the Peony is slow, and we do not "make" varieties to order. If your order is not sent in promptly after catalogue is mailed, please name one or two possible substitutes or instruct us to return money, if that is preferred. Where selection is left to my judgment, I always send greater value than remittance represents.

Shipping season begins in September and ends with the freezing up of the ground. We do not ship Peony roots in the Spring.

Express vs. Parcel Post. Where no instructions accompany order as to method of shipping, we will ship by Express.

Small orders may be shipped by Parcel Post, if preferred, but usually the express rate will be found the cheaper. In either case, however, the buyer must pay transportation charges, and if shipped by Parcel Post, we will have to prepay the carriage charges and send same C. O. D. with the shipment. In addition to the regular Parcel Post charge, the cost of insurance and a 10-cent fee for the collection of the money and sending it to us will have to be paid by the purchaser.

Express shipments are automatically insured, and without additional charge, up to \$50.00 in value.

No charge for packing except on large orders at special price. No charge in any case for delivery to Transportation Companies.

Substitutions. Please state what is to be done in case some variety is sold on receipt of your order—whether you wish your money returned or some equally valuable variety substituted.

Remittances may be made by Bank Draft, Express or P. O. Money Order on Fair Lawn, N. J., Check, or Currency in Registered Letter; same to accompany order.

Open Accounts. Any one desiring to open a charge account will please send financial references, which, he should understand, will take a few days to investigate. No account opened for an initial order of less than \$10.00.

C. O. D. Orders must be accompanied by a deposit of about 25% of the value of roots ordered.

No order under \$2.00 can be accepted. With competent help scarce and expensive, small orders can be filled only at a loss.

The Proprietor's Personal Message to You

This is the seventeenth annual edition of my Peony catalog. It is, I believe, the only catalog devoted exclusively to this flower that has been published for so long and continuous a period, and at no time have I taken up the work of its issuance with quite the zeal and love that I am putting into this edition.

A little more than a year ago the grower of various plants was greatly distressed to observe in his garden the havoc that the severity of the preceding Winter had wrought with many things—Roses, I am sorry to say, not excepted. Following this was a long, cold, wet Spring right through to the end of May.

This Spring, after an almost tropical Winter, we experienced, more than once, unprecedented over-night changes in temperature, which, government reports showed, brought unparalleled losses to planters of many things. Discouraging letters from various sections of the country have come deplored the destruction wrought by nature's unkind hand. Many of these voiced the sentiment of the woman customer who wrote:

"My garden is almost destitute of flowers, fruits and berries. Because of the warm weather coming so soon, I planted earlier than usual, and then frost and ice followed more than once after mid-Summer weather the preceding day and left their mark of ruin. I am so discouraged."

And how did the Peony come through all of this?

In June of 1920 we never had more flowers per plant nor better ones and I did not hear of a single plant being harmed as a result of the preceding hard Winter. This year, it is true that in some cases, especially where plantings were in a low situation as compared with surrounding land, the flower buds were frozen more or less, but even the freak weather of this Spring did not harm, so far as I know, a peony plant.

As I have often said before, the Peony is the Mark Tapley of flowering plants and has once again demonstrated its ability to "come out strong" under the most trying conditions.

I do not know whether any one reads Dickens these days or not, but in my youth it was still the fashion, and a delight as well, to do so, and of all my reading of that famed and beloved author, there were just two things which were engraved upon my memory more indelibly than anything else. These were Dick Swiveller's astonishment when he learned that the Marchioness did not know the taste of beer; and Mark Tapley's most unusual trait of delighting in adversity and "coming out strong," as he expressed it, under such conditions.

In this preliminary talk, I am not this year going to dilate upon the qualities of the modern Peony, which make it, with-

out question, the most desirable flower that he who owns his own place can plant. I am for once going to assume that this fact is known to all. The main thing, as I see it, is to show you how best to get started. Some people like to "shop" around and learn for themselves who really has the best and truest roots. I freely admit, were I an inexperienced private planter to-day, I would not, after reading all the self-lauding Peony ads and appealing catalogs, know where to buy, and so, realizing how much more valuable to you is the other man's experience than is anything I can say, I am this season going to let others speak to you and in the hope that your feet may and will be guided by their experience.

Until quite recently there were but comparatively few special Peony growers to choose from, and choosing was then less difficult, but with "Peony Specialists" springing up over night, as it were, the poor "consumer" stands bewildered and fears lest he be consumed or, at least, "taken in."

All of the following letters (and those, too, in the back of this booklet) have come to me absolutely unsolicited and within the past year, and are reproduced here with the cheerful assent of the authors afterward obtained. First I would like you to read a portion of a letter from F. H. Barclay, 3205 Oakfield Ave., Forest Park, Baltimore, Md., and dated October 15, 1920. Mr. Barclay is a private collector of Peonies of long and wide experience.

"It will gratify you I am sure to know that I have made a careful comparison of your stock with that of the leading Peony growers in this country, including—, —, —, —, —, —and others, and, in all frankness, there is no comparison. A comparison of the same varieties (which is the only real test) shows the eyes on your roots to be larger and stouter, and invariably this results in better and finer blooms from your plants than from the others. Your soil must be nearly perfect for the growth of peony roots and I do not hesitate to tell you that in most instances I have ordered from you regardless of price because I feel so sure of the result, both as to quality and trueness to name."

The following is from Alfred J. Crane, Monroe, N. Y. Mr. Crane is also an ardent Peony fancier, and, in addition to the standard sorts, has purchased of us the most expensive varieties, such as Le Cygne, Kelways Glorious, Jubilee, Martha Bulloch, etc. He says:

"I have ordered peonies from you at different times during the last ten years, or over, and have always found your roots large, strong, and fresh, with big, plump eyes. I have never lost a root, and above all, I believe every one has been true to name. I have received roots in the past from a half dozen other firms, but the roots I received last Fall from you were the finest I have ever seen, packed by one who knew how, and



Martha Bulloch (See page 28)

reached me in perfect condition. This Spring, although their first year, they all flowered, having blossoms much finer than I had any right to expect on plants not yet established."

Then here is a letter from Baylor Hickman, President of the Ewald Iron Co., Louisville, Ky.

"I am enclosing herewith my check for \$221.00 in payment of the magnificent lot of Peony roots you selected for me, and which I hope, and believe, will give wonderful results.

"Any man who strives to get his production up to the highest state of efficiency and who has succeeded as you have, is entitled to the endorsement of the people who have benefited, as I have, by your energy, honesty and work."

Just at the last moment before going to press come two more letters, one dated July 2nd and from an enthusiastic customer of many years' standing, who has a most beautiful estate in exclusive Glen Cove, Long Island. I cannot get permission

to use his name as his letter tells me that he sails for Europe on July 4th, the day before his letter was received, and which reads in part as follows:

"Your Roses and Peonies will continue to lead all others. Those I have purchased from you are the finest ever. In every line there is a real leader, and in yours you are the man."

Last, but not least, comes a tribute from one of my contemporaries, one of the oldest of the big Peony growers. For obvious reasons his name cannot be publicly used.

"I prefer your stock to that of a good many others. Your roots are generally large, clean and strong. Your prices are not really higher than others, considering what you send out. Some growers send out divisions so small and weak they can scarcely live."

I am afraid I have already exceeded my allotted space for this introductory matter, but for the benefit of intending purchasers to whom this business is not known I would state that for the past seventeen years I have given all of my time, lovingly and devotedly, the year round to the Peony and the Rose. This is not a side issue to some other business. I not only grow nothing else to sell, besides these two flowers, but do nothing else.

I do not boast of the many hundreds of varieties of Peonies I have, but am rather proud of the fact that I have had courage to throw away several hundred, and which has been done for your protection. From the beginning it has been my policy to keep my public offerings down to about one hundred varieties. No novelty is offered to you without its first having been well tried out here and no root is sold you except of my own propagation and growing and which has first flowered true. Furthermore, I do not send out any puny, one-eyed divisions which will have to be carefully nursed through their infancy and childhood, and which practice, if persisted in, will only weaken the variety and bring on disease.

Last year I did, by far, the biggest Peony business of my career, and (with apologies to friend Studebaker),

"THIS IS ANOTHER PETERSON YEAR."

Yours for good Peonies,

GEORGE H. PETERSON,

President.

We Ship Peonies only in the Fall.



A Clump of Festiva Maxima (See page 22)

The History of the Peony

THE Peony, like the Rose, can be traced back to ancient times, but the species *PAEONIA ALBIFLORA* (so popular to-day), or, as it is commonly known, the Chinese Peony, is of modern development.

The species *OFFICINALIS* is indigenous to Europe, and it is probably this class which is referred to in the writings of the ancient Greeks, and concerning which there were so many peculiar and superstitious legends.

The *ALBIFLORA* and *MOUTAN* (Tree Peony) types can be traced back to China in the middle of the sixth century, when these classes received considerable attention at the hands of the Chinese gardeners. These subsequently found their way to Japan, where the *Moutan* class won much favor, was greatly improved, and is still very popular.

So far as can be learned, the *Albiflora* type, with which we are most concerned, did not reach Europe or America until early in the nineteenth century. It appears that at first there was little general and determined effort made to improve this species, but toward the middle of this period the French hybridists (the most skilful in the world) enthusiastically took hold of this flower with results that are little short of marvelous, as is shown in the varieties we possess to-day.

Concerning the naming of this flower, Dr. Coit very interestingly relates:

"It is the species *officinalis* which probably secured for the genus its name. The genus *Paeonia* was so named by the ancients in honor of *Paeon*, a physician, who cured the wounds received by the heathen gods during the Trojan war. The ancient writers, who transformed simple facts into fabulous histories for the purpose of deifying favorite mortals, relate that *Paeon*, who was a pupil of the great *Aesculapius*, first received the peony on Mt. Olympus from the hands of the mother of *Apollo*, with which he cured *Pluto* of a wound he had received from *Hercules*, but this cure caused so much jealousy in the breast of *Aesculapius* that he secretly caused the death of *Paeon*. *Pluto*, however, retaining a grateful sense of his service, changed him into the flower which ever after bore his name."

In olden times this plant was supposed to have much medicinal value, and it appears that it was also the subject of much absurd superstition. Dr. Coit states:

"Antiquity celebrates the virtues of this plant and places it among the wonders of the vegetable garden. Fable gives us its origin, *Aesculapius* its properties, and superstition ranks it among miraculous plants, assuring that demons will fly the spot where it is planted, and that even a small piece of root worn around the neck is sufficient to protect the wearer from all kinds of enchantment."

"The ancient Greeks when digging up the plant were careful to do so at night only, as it was said that if anyone attempted to meddle with it in the daytime the green woodpecker, which the gods had assigned to the plant as a protection, would dart at the eyes of the intruder."



Just one Plant of Avalanche (See page 25)

HOW TO REACH NURSERIES

My nurseries are located on Fair Lawn Avenue, near the railroad depot of Fair Lawn, on the Bergen County branch of the Erie R. R. Train leaves Jersey City at 9.40 A. M. They can also be reached by trolley via "Hudson River Line," foot of West 130th Street, New York. Take Paterson car and change at Ridgewood Junction (just before reaching Paterson) to a Ridgewood car, which leave at Fair Lawn Avenue, and walk eastward (to right) one-half mile. The nurseries are less than two miles east of the north end of Paterson.

Visitors may inspect flowers on Sunday also, but positively no business is done on that day.

"THE BOOK OF THE PEONY"

BY MRS. EDWARD HARDING.

This is the only real book extant on this subject and is written by an amateur for amateurs. It is a most helpful and beautiful publication, with many cuts in colors. Every lover and grower of the Peony should possess a copy, and which we shall be glad to supply (carriage prepaid to customers) at the publisher's price, \$6.50 net.

Planting and Cultivation

The Herbaceous Peony is of such simple culture, and so easy to grow, that but little instruction will be necessary in order that the beginner may produce the finest blooms. While it will grow and bloom under conditions in which most plants would perish, it will well repay, in largely increased size and beauty of bloom, a thorough preparation of soil.

Where such fancy blooms are wanted, it will be well to excavate the proposed beds to a depth of 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet and fill in with good loam or garden soil, which has been well worked and broken (not sifted) and mixed with 3 inches of well-rotted stable manure. If only new manure is obtainable, it should be mixed well with the soil in bottom of trench up to within about 15 inches of surface, and applied *lightly* as a mulch on the surface after planting.

In preparing beds do not put the manure in layers and let it remain so, as many do. The manure should be made as fine as possible and thoroughly *mixed* with the soil—not merely turned over. A flat-tined fork, such as is used for digging potatoes, is the implement needed here. The ordinary spade is of little use.

Too much manure is often used for the Peony's good, with the result that decay of root sometimes sets in. Where the ground is very fertile it is often wise to use no manure.

Should one decide in spring or summer to plant in fall, and only new manure is obtainable, the bed may at once be made, and with a forking over every two weeks, ideal conditions will be had by fall. In the heat of summer, manure quickly disintegrates when handled thus. The object of the above is to give the root abundant plant-food and yet prevent hunks or lumps of decaying manure to come into direct contact with it, which might start rot to set in. There is such a thing as getting the ground too rich for the Peony.

CHARACTER OF SOIL

Probably the very best soil for the Peony is one which is neither too heavy with clay nor too light with sand, one which might be termed a heavy loam, and such as would make a good vegetable garden. Such a soil should be fairly retentive of moisture, and the Peony, being a strong, quick grower, can absorb much water.

Never plant the Peony in soil where Peonies have grown before, or until at least six or more years have elapsed. Disregard of this will result in comparative or even complete failure.

WHEN TO PLANT

The best season for planting the Peony is in the fall, after the roots are well ripened. In this latitude, this occurs in most varieties after mid-September, and is shown in the foliage becoming colored. Many nurserymen begin digging in August, but a glance at your Peonies then will show the foliage still quite fresh and green. The roots, too, will suffer from shriveling if dug and shipped while weather is hot.

DEPTH AND DISTANCE TO PLANT

The root should be set so that the upper eyes are about two to three inches (not deeper) beneath the surface of the soil, and, if planted in permanent beds, should be about $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ or even 4 feet apart, according to room at one's disposal. When planted in field for cut-flower purposes, the plants should be set $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet apart in row, and rows from 4 to 5 feet apart, or plant 4 x 4 to permit cross cultivation.

WATERING

No water need be applied when planting is done in the fall. In the spring, after growths appear above ground and rains prove infrequent, copious waterings will be very helpful in promoting strong growth and producing large blooms. From the time buds begin to show color, care should be exercised to keep them and the open flowers as dry as possible, confining the water, as much as possible, to the ground.

If the soil is fertile, plain water will be best to use, and if necessary to use manure-water, apply in weak solution.

CUTTING BLOOMS

When cutting flowers, always leave at least two leaf stems on stalk cut. It is best not to cut all of the flowers, as it is of vital importance that sufficient foliage be left on the plant all summer to develop the eyes under ground for next season's growths.

WHEN THE GROWTHS BECOME TOO DENSE

From the fifth or sixth year onward after planting, some varieties (according to habit) will begin to throw up too many growths with the result that stems will not be so stout nor so tall and flowers will be smaller than before.

To overcome this, take a pair of sharp-pointed shears when the growths are 8 to 12 inches high and cut off close to the ground a number of them here and there so that those remaining are about evenly spaced. A marked improvement will at once be observed and in a degree depending upon how few growths are left.

AFTER THE BLOOMING SEASON

The plants will make no further top growth after the blooming season is over. Keep the ground about them stirred and free from weeds, and water need be applied only when ground is quite dry.

Seed-pods and remains of flowers may be cut off, but do not under any circumstances remove foliage until October. I repeat this since I have known people to cut off all foliage to the ground soon after the blooming season was over, and then next season wonder why they had little or no bloom.

WINTERING

So far as protection from cold is concerned, the Peony does not ask it in even the most severe climate. The first winter, the roots, being loose in the ground, will require a light protection (an inch or so) of strawy manure or other porous material. After this, if the ground has been made deep and rich, as directed, I would advise withholding all manure and protection for several years, and, when it does again become necessary to fertilize, the manure should be broadcasted rather than placed directly over the crown of the plant, which latter, study and observation have shown me, often induces decay to set in.

A heavy mulching, having to some extent the same effect as a deep planting, will often be followed by blind growths or buds which fail to develop. (See "Why Some Peonies Do Not Bloom.")



Madame Jules Dessert (See page 28)



Couronne d'Or (See page 22)

DISEASES AND INSECTS

The Peony is practically immune from general diseases. See to it that you get healthy plants to begin with, and then you will have nothing to fear.

If you obtain sickly looking roots it is usually due to the grower having raised them on land where Peonies had been grown before. Some growers, after digging and selling certain varieties, will propagate and replant each year the same varieties in the places where roots of the same kinds had earlier in the season been dug. In this way they may have one, two and three-year-old roots in the same row and save much ground space, but it is a most pernicious practice. From the beginning we have never resorted to this, but each year our plantings have been made in soil new to the Peony. As a result our roots are of most unusual vigor and bloom-producing qualities.

During a very wet spring season some foliage, buds, and even stems will rot, but unless the whole plant is affected (and this has practically never happened here among the many thousands of plants we grow yearly), one need not be unduly alarmed. Growths so affected should at once be closely removed and destroyed.

The only insect which ever, even slightly, injures the Peony is the rose chafer, which will sometimes be found eating the petals of the flower. With the exception of the later varieties, the Peony is usually done blooming ere this pest appears, and so it would, perhaps, be wise, where the chafer is annually very troublesome and one has no inclination to combat it, to omit the later sorts. The Peony is, however, so very large, with dense petalage, that this bug, when

it does attack a flower, usually buries itself in the petals, and does not disfigure it as it does a rose or other flower.

ANTS, which are often seen on the buds as they are developing, are there to gather a sweet, gum-like substance which the bud exudes. They do no harm to the coming flower nor to the plant, and will disappear on opening of flowers.

WHY SOME PEONIES DO NOT BLOOM

As this is a question sometimes asked, I will here answer it for the benefit of all interested.

In the first place, a Peony root, whether large or small, recently transplanted, will usually throw up more or less blind shoots, or with small buds which fail to develop. This effect will also often be produced by very deep planting or too heavy a mulching over winter. (See "Wintering.")

Occasionally very severe late frosts, after the plants are above ground, will destroy some of the coming blooms. This very rarely happens; in fact, this past Spring, with its unprecedented overnight changes from mid-Summer to Winter, was the first in a quarter of a century that Peonies have been materially so harmed here, and it was only the buds on plants in comparatively low situations which suffered noticeably. The plants, however, were not harmed in the slightest degree.

Lack of moisture or fertility will also affect the blooming qualities of a plant. The Peony requires much moisture during the few weeks preceding its blooming time—afterward, having, by June, made its entire growth above ground for the season, moderate moisture will do.

Then again, there are many thousands of Peony plants all over the country which should never have found a place in the private garden. A grower raises seedling Peonies by the acre. He must cultivate them several years before they bloom, and when they do bloom he finds few or none that are as good as varieties already in existence, but lacking the courage to dig them up and throw them away, he sells them to the average nurseryman, to whom all roots look alike, and thus they find their way into the planter's hands. Very probably many of these seedlings have never bloomed and some of them probably never will.

In my own tests of varieties, one that does not begin to bloom within two or three years from planting is discarded, and it must be a very distinct and unusually good variety to be retained and offered here if it does not bloom well and regularly *every* season after having become established. It is true that there are some varieties which are tardy in beginning to bloom. Take, for instance, Richardson's Rubra Superba, a variety we scarcely ever get flowers from the first two seasons after planting, but it is such an unusually fine Peony, and blooming when practically all other Peonies are gone, it must be retained.

Of course, there will always be some blind growths, even on well-established plants. A fruit tree does not mature all its blossoms, and some years a potato plant yields three times as much as in another season; but, taking it all in all, the Peony is a plant of easy culture, and year in and year out will, with ordinary care, give a good account of itself.

USES

There is probably no other plant with such varied usefulness. For effective massing in landscape work the Peony is unequaled. As an edging or facing for shrubbery, it is likewise good. Planted in beds, or borders, or as specimen plants on the lawn, it is equally at home. It is particularly attractive when used to border a drive or walk.

An attractive use for the Peony is low, ornamental, lawn hedging. This, of course, applies where only ornament, and not defense, is required. The dark, glossy-green foliage, untouched by disease or insects, is exceedingly attractive through the spring and hot summer months.

And the cost, too, in some of the most desirable low-priced sorts will prove quite moderate, since the plants for this purpose may be set $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 feet apart, and a single row is quite ample.

AS A CUT FLOWER

It is hardly equaled. Cut as the bud is about to unfold, and placed in water in a cool room, where the air is fresh night and day, most varieties will last several days. The blooms will then be superior to those left to open on the plant and exposed to the heat of the sun.

If set at once in a cold, dark cellar the different varieties may be kept several days longer than their blooming period. Bring up as wanted.



Primevere (See page 29)

THE PLANTS I SEND OUT

"One-year" plants are those which have grown a full year since division. "Two-year" plants have grown two years since division, and where the cost can be borne, are, of course, more desirable, as the immediate effect is greater. "Three-year" plants are very heavy clumps, and are well worth the price asked. They will make a large, bushy plant at once.

Do not let the mere number of eyes claimed influence you, as a weak root with from six to ten small eyes may not flower for several years, while two or three good plump eyes (and most of my smallest size plants will average double this), with strong roots behind them, will flower the first season. Even in one-year stock, I aim to send out only roots which will produce some bloom the first season, if well planted, and this we can invariably do if your order is received fairly early.



A Peony growth just after buds are formed

DISBUDDING

Most Peonies usually set three or more buds to a stem. (See cut above.) All but the central (largest) bud should be pinched off as soon as they can be gotten hold of if the finest individual blooms are wanted.

All Illustrations, except that on page 5, are exact reproductions of our own flowers.



Jubilee (See page 28)

MOST ECONOMICAL PLANT TO BUY

While its first cost may seem high, it is really the most economical plant one can buy from the fact that it represents a *permanent* investment and one which pays annual dividends of increase of at least 100 per cent. Almost every family, of even the most moderate means, spends annually quite a tidy little sum in Bulbs, Geraniums, and other bedding plants, and at the end of the year has nothing left to show for it. Plant the Peony, and it will last as long as you do—and longer. Plantings may be left undisturbed from ten to twenty years, or even longer, if the soil is occasionally enriched.

THE QUALITY OF MY ROOTS

Is something exceptional. If you have purchased Peonies of others, you will be astonished at my strong, clean, fresh roots, with big, plump eyes that "mean business."

For several years now my Peonies have been growing on an exceptional piece of land, and with clean, thorough tillage all summer, very unusual results are attained. In short, these roots are the best that intelligent, human effort can produce, and in Peonies they will be found to lead all other roots, just as my "EPOCH ROSES" lead all other Roses produced anywhere in the world.

TRUENESS

Desirable as it is to get fine, strong roots, it is even of greater importance that stock be true to name, and it is in this phase of the business that I especially challenge comparison. During the blooming season my personal time is devoted almost exclusively to proving stock, and I maintain trial and test gardens such as cannot be found elsewhere in this country. The pith of all this is well, if briefly, expressed in the enthusiastic statement of a patron, "If you get it of Peterson, it's true."

HOW THE PEONY IS SENT TO YOU

The Peony is sent out in the form of a root (see cut below), from which, when dormant, will be seen protruding pinkish "eyes" or buds, the strongest of which will throw up next season's flowering shoots.



A Dormant Peony Root as it appears
in the Fall

CAN BE SHIPPED SAFELY ANYWHERE

The Peony, in fall, can stand without injury a journey of months, if kept from prolonged heat, which would start it into growth. There is, in fact, no flower which can be transported over long distances with greater safety.

WHEN SHIPMENT IS MADE

We usually begin digging about September 15th, and ship after that date, unless shipment is especially requested earlier.

We do not ship Peonies in the spring. The spring planter, since most Peonies are sold and planted in the fall, must take the leavings, no matter where he purchases, and then, too, it is almost an impossibility to dig and pack Peony roots in the spring without breakage of the brittle, tender growths. Fall is the natural time to plant this noble flower.

WHY YOU SHOULD ORDER EARLY

It will be to your interest to send in your order promptly on receipt of this catalogue. This may save you disappointment, as some varieties are in limited supply, and cannot be obtained from reliable sources. Many varieties I can supply by the hundred. Early orders also get the strongest roots. The receipt of your order and remittance will be acknowledged by return mail.

The Varieties I Offer

The list I offer is sufficiently long to embrace the various colors, forms, and seasons of the Peony, but not so long as to make selection by the average planter needlessly difficult and perplexing. In fact, I aim to keep my list as brief as seems advisable, and have yearly eliminated from my collection such sorts as have proved inferior or too much like other established sorts. This elimination requires a certain courage which few growers exercise, with the result that a long and confusing list is set before the prospective buyer, and which necessarily must contain duplicate or inferior kinds or both.

Prices

Are net, as quoted, except as noted below, and are as low as a like quality can anywhere be obtained. The thorough cultivation given my Peonies, going over the fields with the cultivator and hoe every ten days the entire season, and the extreme care exercised in handling, labeling and packing, I have never seen equaled elsewhere. And remember that a Peony root quoted at a certain price may actually be worth two or three of same variety quoted for less money elsewhere.

Note Discounts on Page 18; Special Collections on Pages 31 and 32.

DISCOUNTS

Orders amounting to \$10.00	5% off
" " " 25.00	10% "
" " " 50.00 and upward.....	15% "

These discounts apply to all Peonies offered in this catalogue except as follows:

The Collections at special prices are net.

The prices of Mixed Peonies are also net.

Where rare Peonies (those costing more than \$5.00 per root) only are ordered, prices are net, but if such are ordered together with like value in standard or lower-cost kinds, the above discounts may be applied to all.

If you have any doubt as to what discount you are entitled to, send in your list and we will net price it for you.

Herbaceous Chinese Peonies

(*Paeonia Albiflora*)

Section A

1 year, 60 cents; 2 year, \$1.00; 3 year, \$1.40 each.

Each variety can be supplied this year only in ages indicated by figures following description.

COMTE DE PARIS (Guerin). Pretty, anemone-shaped flower; outer petals pink, center soft pink and salmon-yellow, with tuft of bright pink petals edged with crimson. A very pretty and floriferous sort. **1.**

DE CANDOLLE (Verdier). Brilliant, currant amaranth. Immense, full, imbricated, wonderfully showy bloom. Profuse bloomer. **1.**

DUCHESS D'ORLEANS (Guerin). Large, carmine-pink guard petals, with center of soft pink, interspersed with salmon. Nice pointed bud. Tall grower. An exceedingly good, perfect bloomer and very pretty flower. One of the most desirable of the low-cost sorts. **1—2.**

EDULIS SUPERBA (Lemon). Beautiful, brilliant rose-pink, silvery reflex; large, well-formed, full flower on strong stem. Blooms very early, just before Festiva Maxima. Lasts well. Fragrant and good in every way. A much worthier sort than its price would seem to indicate. There is quite a stock of it in existence. Splendid cut flower sort for Decoration Day. **1—2.**

GENERAL BERTRAND (Guerin). Deep rose-pink, large guard petals, center well filled with small salmony-pink petals edged with whitish pink. Splendid habit and foliage; nice, elongated bud; in all of which points it resembles Modeste Guerin, and is sold, even by specialists, for that variety. It lacks, however, the solid color, and firmness of guard petals, found in Modeste Guerin. **1.**

MAD. LEBON (Calot). Very large, full bloom, tall, erect grower. Showy flower. Petals broad, brilliant cherry-pink, intermixed with narrow salmon petals; silvery reflex. Late mid-season. **3.**

Section B

1 year, 75 cents; 2 year, \$1.20; 3 year, \$1.75 each.

Each variety can be supplied this year only in ages indicated by figures following description.

AUGUSTIN D'HOUR (Calot). *Syn. Marechal MacMahon.* Very large, convex bloom. Broad guard petals, center petals narrow and built up close and high, ball-shaped. Color on opening, deep, rich, vinous red. Strong grower with large, very dark, glossy foliage; stems very stiff. Very fine bud. Blooms late mid-season. An indispensable Peony. **1—2—3.**

CANARI (Guerin). Outer petals flesh white, with yellow center. Very tall grower; sweetly fragrant. Very prolific bloomer. Splendid value for its price. **1—2.**

CHARLEMAGNE (Crousse). Rosy white, shaded lilac and chamois. Very full and well-rounded bloom. Opens very slowly and lasts well. Fragrant and exquisite when in perfection, but cannot stand a great deal of wet weather. Very late variety. **1—2—3.**

DELACHEI (Delache). Large and full, deep, rich, dark crimson flower. Good grower and bloomer and fine for massing effects; fragrant. Late mid-season. **2.**

JENNY LIND. Large, full, bright pink variety. Very tall grower. Good, profuse bloomer. Splendid value for price asked. **1—2.**

MAD. CHAUMY (Calot). Large, very full and compact flower, beautifully formed. Silky petals, soft pink, shaded with bright rose. Slightly drooping, graceful habit. Splendid on well-established plants under rich cultivation. Late and very sure, profuse bloomer. **2—3.**

MAD. DE VATRY (Guerin). Large, perfectly formed bloom, outer petals clear flesh; center sulphurish, rosy white marked with carmine. A pleasing Peony. **3.**

RUBENS (Delache). Deep, unusually rich, brilliant crimson, flower moderately full, showing golden stamens in center, making a beautiful and striking contrast. Fine for color effect. It rates low only in price. **1—2.**

Section C

1 year, 85 cents; 2 year, \$1.30; 3 year, \$2.00 each.

Each variety can be supplied this year only in ages indicated by figures following description.

ALEXANDER DUMAS (Guerin). A pretty shade of bright pink, with chamois, white and salmon intermingling; flowers large and very full. A most attractive and showy variety, combining several colors, but in general effect pink. Very good and reliable. **1—2—3.**

BOULE DE NEIGE (Calot). Very large, cup-shaped, sulphur-white flower with golden reflections. Center petals freely bordered carmine. Buds marked and splashed carmine, as in La Tulipe. Fine, strong, upright grower; stems long and stout. Fine dark foliage. Fragrance very strong and sweet. **1—2.**

DUCHESS DE NEMOURS (Calot). Guard petals white, center lemon-yellow, with greenish reflex. The flower opens at first cup-shaped, disclosing its lovely lemon-yellow center, then gradually develops into a large well-formed bloom which gradually fades to white. Among all Peonies there is nothing so exquisitely chaste as this variety in a half-open state. A good, profuse, sure bloomer; sweetly fragrant. Fine habit. Splendid cut-flower and all-around variety. Blooms early.
1—2—3.

EDOUARD ANDRE (Mechin). Deep, brilliant, crimson-red, full flower with metallic reflex showing golden yellow stamens. This is the earliest of all the very dark reds. Bush is of only moderate height. **1.**

FLORAL TREASURE (Rosenfield). Very delicate salmon pink, with green heart. Rosy tinge on first opening. Good, upright grower and bloomer. Flower large and full; foliage light green. A charming flower where delicacy of coloring is desired. **1.**

JEANNE D'ARC (Calot). Soft pink, sulphur-white and rose; center spotted carmine. A unique and charming combination of colors. Moderately strong grower, a very free bloomer, flowers invariably coming perfect. The most popular of the tri-colored sorts. **1—2.**

LA TULIPE (Calot). Flesh-pink, shading to ivory-white, center petals tipped and outer petals freely striped with carmine. Large, very fragrant, globular flowers, borne on long, stiff stems; very strong grower. Very striking bud; distinct and desirable. **1—2—3.**

LOUISE RENAULT (Crousse). Very large and full bloom, petals very broad. Color unique—a solid slatish pink. Fragrance very spicy and the most delightfully refreshing of all Peonies. Good habit and stems. Blooms late. **1.**

MAD. BARILLET-DESCHAMPS (Calot). Very tender pink, bordered with white and shaded with lively silvery tints. Golden stamens reflected throughout flower. A large, full ball of silk and satin, very sweetly perfumed. Tall grower, with very distinct broad foliage. **1—2.**

MAD. CALOT (Miellez). Broad, flesh, guard petals; center blush, deepening to delicate crushed strawberry, surrounded with small, straw-white petals. Flower very large, full and superbly built; early and fragrant. Growth and stems ideal. Very free bloomer. Whole effect fleshy-salmon-white, fading to white. Not so promising on young plants, but on established ones it is truly superb, and this, together with its sure and abundant blooming qualities, places it, in my estimation, as one of the very foremost Peonies for general planting.
1—2.

MAD. DE VERNEVILLE (Crousse). Exceedingly fine, full, anemone-shaped flower. Broad guard petals, sulphur-white; center rosy-white, with an occasional edging of carmine; beautifully imbricated. Very sweet, rose-like fragrance. Blooms early and very abundantly. A flower to love, and without which in abundance I could hardly live. **1—2.**

MARECHAL VALLIANT (Calot). Immense, full, purplish red flower, coming on very long stems. The flower is very solid, heavy, and somewhat drooping in habit. One of the showiest Peonies grown and one of the last to bloom, but not very prolific as a rule. Always a prize winner at the late shows.
1—2—3.

PHILOMELA (Calot). Guard petals soft pink; center a real deep golden yellow with center tuft of rose, bordered carmine. Very distinct and sweet syringa-like fragrance. Possesses the deepest yellow to be found in Peonies. Good lasting qualities. One of the most striking varieties. Splendid, both as a cut flower and for garden decoration. A bed or border of this sort will halt every passer-by. **1—2—3.**

SOUV. DE L'EXPOSITION DE BORDEAUX (Dessert). Moderate size flower, described by the introducer as "bluish violet and vinous red, with brilliant reflex." Densely filled with narrow, pointed petals. Very distinct and striking color—a pickled-beet red. 1.

UMBELLATA ROSEA. (Syn. Sarah Bernhardt.) (**Dessert**). Broad guard petals, delicate rose-pink. Center petals short, straw-yellow, with tufts of whitish pink. Habit ideal; flowers borne on stiff, upright stems. Fragrance delicate and agreeable. Blooms young and abundantly. The first of the Albiflora sorts to flower; usually in bloom here by Decoration Day. A lovely Peony. 2.



Augustin d'Hour (See page 19)

Section D

1 year, \$1.00; 2 year, \$1.70; 3 year, \$2.25 each.

Each variety can be supplied this year only in ages indicated by figures following description.

AURORE (Dessert). "Large, cup-shaped flower, very soft flesh-pink, salmoned yellow at base of petals, stamens very prominent." It is of good habit, very free-blooming, and lasts well. A Peony which visitors quickly "take to." 1—2.

BEAUTE DE VILLECANTE (Gombault). Large, full flower. Pink and delicate flesh; exquisitely fresh, rosy color. Good, upright, tall grower and splendid cut flower. 1.



Mad. de Galhau (See below)

COURONNE D'OR (Crown of Gold). (Calot). Very large and full imbricated flower of superb form. White, reflecting yellow, center petals bordered with carmine; golden stamens showing through and lighting up flower. Solidly and perfectly built from edge to center. Fragrant, a good grower and reliable bloomer. Blooms moderately late, preceding Marie Lemoine. **1—2.**

FESTIVA MAXIMA (Miellez). Very large and full pure white flower, with few center petals usually tipped with blood-red spots. A very vigorous grower, with massive foliage, flowers coming on long, stiff stems. Fragrant, early, and blooms most abundantly. Perhaps the very best all-round white we possess. It is certainly the most popular. **1—2.**

LIVINGSTONE (Crousse). Very large, full, evenly formed and shaded bloom. Color beautiful soft pink. Good, erect grower and bloomer. Stems tall and stout. Reliable young bloomer. Season late. Magnificent bud. **1—2.**

MAD. DE GALHAU (Crousse). Enormous, imbricated flower, coming on tall, firm, erect stems. Color soft, glossy, flesh-pink, shaded with transparent salmon. A superb, late variety of ideal habit, and a good, profuse bloomer. The buds often begin to open one-sided, but they invariably develop slowly into prize-winning blooms. Absolutely indispensable. **1—2—3.**

MAD. DUCEL (Mechin). Large, wonderfully built flower; broad guard petals, center ball-shaped, very full and compact. The closely set small petals are beautifully curled, as in a chrysanthemum. Whole flower solid color of silvery, lilac pink. Foliage very fresh dark green. Very distinct and floriferous. Blooms early. Indispensable. 1—2—3.

MAD. EMILE GALLE (Crousse). Large, cup-shaped, imbricated flower, soft lilac pink; center shaded soft flesh and cream, fading to rosy white. Coloring of great delicacy. Splendid bud. Foliage very distinct dull green. Late. Extra. 1—2—3.

MAD. GEISSLER (Crousse). Gigantic, full bloom; rather flat when fully open. Glossy lilac, rose pink, shaded to Bengal rose at base of petals. One of the largest of all Peonies. 1—2.

MARGUERITE GERARD (Crousse). Large, full flower; tall, upright grower. Flesh, changing to soft flesh-white, with creamy-white center. A profuse bloomer, opening all its flowers perfectly. A choice and indispensable variety. 1—2—3.

MARIE LEMOINE (Calot). Large, sulphur-white, full and well-built flower, delicately shaded chamois, with narrow carmine edge. The massive bloom comes late on a very stout, erect stem of medium height. A sort the Peony enthusiast raves over, as well he may. 1—2.

MIREILLE (Crousse). Very large, full, milky white flower of unusual richness and distinctiveness. Good habit, and blooms very late. 1—2.

MODESTE GUERIN (Guerin). Very large, anemone, ball-shaped bloom, perfectly built. Bright carmine pink, solid color. Splendid habit and foliage. Very fine, elongated bud. This is a choice and distinct Peony. 1—2.

MONS. DUPONT (Calot). Very large, cup-shaped, perfectly built flower; creamy white, center petals bordered with lively carmine, and lit up with golden stamens at base of petals. Exceedingly rich bloom and deliciously fragrant. Good, tall grower. Blooms rather late, preceding Couronne d'Or. A truly royal flower. 1—2.

MONS. KRELAGE (Crousse). Large to very large full flower; deep wine-red. Solid color; fine habit; very fragrant. 2.

NUMBER 2. This is one of the most striking of all the late varieties. The flower is immense, very full and evenly formed; color a medium light, even pink, changing to silvery pink. The foliage is very beautiful and profuse and comes up close to the bloom. Profuse annual bloomer. I have had it from abroad for about ten years and cannot identify it. Superb. 1—2—3.

OCTAVIE DEMAY (Calot). Very large and full, well-built flower. Rosy blush on first opening, fading to white, with occasional coloring of carmine in center. Color of exceeding freshness. Plant is somewhat dwarf, but bears regularly and prolifically its very large flowers on stiff, upright stems. Early bloomer. Fragrant. In my opinion this variety is one of the most charming and meritorious of all Peonies. 1—2.

SOLFATARE (Calot). Guard petals pure white; center ball-shaped and well filled with narrow sulphur-yellow petals. The flower is medium large to large, fragrant, and comes on good stems. Exquisitely beautiful. Where a white and yellow Peony is desired, I recommend this above all others: in fact, when I see a bunch of these cut just as the flower has opened, I am ready to declare that there is nothing else quite so exquisite. 1—2.

SOUV. DE L'EXPOSITION UNIVERSELLE (Calot). Very large, full flower; rich, clear, brilliant pink with silvery reflex. Good, prolific bloomer. This is, perhaps, the clearest bright pink of all Peonies without a suggestion of purple. 1—2.



Frances Willard (See page 28)

Section E

1 year, \$1.15; 2 year, \$1.80; 3 year, \$2.50 each.

Each variety can be supplied this year only in ages indicated by figures following description.

ALBERT CROUSSE (Crousse). Large, very full, evenly formed bloom; fresh-pink; center shaded with clear pink. Petalage small and very dense. A high-class, late Peony and which was in wonderful form the past season. **1—2.**

ALFRED DE MUSSET (Crousse). Large to very large, well-formed, fleshy-white flower, shaded pale salmon with rosy center. The general color effect of this variety is exquisitely fresh and pleasing. The habit and flowering qualities are very good. A variety which, in my opinion, should be better known than it evidently is. **1.**

ATROSANGUINEA (Calot). Large, full bloom. Color deep scarlet-red tinged with violet; bright golden-yellow stamens showing through flower. Very brilliant and showy. Superb habit. Fragrant. **1—2.**

AVALANCHE (Crousse). Very large and full, milky white flower of perfect form, reflecting yellow from the base of petals; few center petals very delicately edged with carmine. Fine, strong grower, good bloomer and delightfully fragrant; late mid-season. Really superb, and by many considered the best white of all. 1—2—3.

CONSTANT DEVRED (Calot). One of the last of all Peonies to bloom. Very large, full and evenly formed violet pink flower, coming on exceptionally strong, upright stems. 1—2.

FELIX CROUSSE (Crousse). Large, anemone, ball-shaped bloom. Color brilliant, dazzling red, with ruby-flamed center. Good grower, bloomer and one of the most popular all-around red varieties. 1—2.

LA ROSIERE (Crousse). An exceedingly charming, cup-shaped flower. White, with small yellow center, suggesting an immense pond-lily. Moderately large flower, coming on a bush of moderate height. An appealing Peony of unusual distinctiveness. 1—2.

MARIE JACQUIN. Glossy, flesh-white, with rosy tinge to bud. Exquisitely beautiful, moderately full, cupped flower, retaining this form. Flowers on newly set plants and weak growths often come near single. With its wealth of golden stamens in center, this flower suggests our native pond lily. Fragrance very rich and languorous. Very distinct and fine. 1—2—3.

MODELE DE PERFECTION (Crousse). Immense, well and evenly formed flower. Color flesh-pink, marbled with bright rose, deepening in center. Flower opens cup-shaped, then develops to a high-pointed center, which afterward opens up, making a very high, built-up flower. Good erect habit, strong stems and a prodigious bloomer. Very distinct and desirable. Blooms late. 1—2.

Section F

1 year, \$1.30; 2 year, \$2.25; 3 year, \$3.00 each.

Each variety can be supplied this year only in ages indicated by figures following description.

ARMANDINE MECHIN (Mechin). Large, full, clear amaranth flower. Probably the most brilliant and dazzling red Peony in cultivation. Very desirable. 1—2—3.

EUGENE BIGOT (Dessert). Brilliant, velvety crimson red; flowers large, full and of splendid form. Rather tall grower, late and good bloomer. The best of its color and season. 1—2—3.

GRANDIFLORA NIVEA PLENA (Lemon). Superb, very large and full flower; white, tinted delicate sulphur, with carmine stripes at center. An extra early variety, resembling somewhat Festiva Maxima, than which it is a little earlier and a more creamy white in color. 1.

MAD. BUCQUET (Dessert). Very pretty, perfectly shaped bloom. Color dark, velvety amaranth. Good upright habit and free bloomer. Next to Mons. Martin Cahuzac this is the darkest red, and should be in every collection where dark reds are prized, especially where Cahuzac cannot be afforded. 1—2.

MILLE. ROUSSEAU (Crousse). Very large and full flower, with broad petals. Sulphur-white, pinkish, flesh-colored center, shaded salmon; fragrance strong and agreeable. 3.

SUZANNE DESSERT (Dessert and Mechlin). Large and full, broad-petaled flower of a clear china pink color, with silvery border. Good bloomer, distinct in coloring and very showy, "silky" bloom. Do not omit this, as in both shade and texture it is unmatched by any other Peony. 1—2.

Section G

1 year, \$1.50; 2 year, \$2.50; 3 year, \$3.50 each.

Each variety can be supplied this year only in ages indicated by figures following description.

ASA GRAY (Crousse). Very large, full and perfectly formed bloom. Salmon and fleshy pink, petals beautifully marked and marbled with carmine-lilac. Tall, upright grower, and profuse, sure bloomer. Words cannot paint the beauty and worth of this gem among Peonies. **1—2.**

AUGUSTE VILLAUME (Crousse). An enormous flower, very full, and of splendid form and habit. Rich, deep pink. Decidedly the best, very late, dark pink; invariably a prize winner. This variety has usually opened well with us but the last season or two have apparently been unsuited to it. **1—2.**

COMTE DE GOMER (Calot). Very large, full and late bloom. Color a mauve red. The blooms are very heavy and borne on stems of unusual stoutness and rigidity. This variety usually gives us prize-winning specimen blooms in the late season. **2.**

GERMAINE BIGOT (Dessert). Large to very large flesh-pink flower tinged pale rose. Good upright habit and a good, sure bloomer. Stamens visible throughout the flower. Fragrance good. **1—2—3.**

GRANDIFLORA (Richardson). Large, full flower, flesh, changing to fleshy white; very fragrant. This, a famous Richardson seedling, is one of the very last of all Peonies to bloom. The flower unfolds its delicate beauty slowly, and lasts well both on the bush and when cut. **1—2—3.**

MAD. EMILE LEMOINE (Lemoine). Large and full globular bloom, rosy, creamy white, a very delicate and fresh coloring. Fragrant. One of the fine new French varieties. Not only is the flower one of the finest of all whites, but in both habit and blooming qualities it is ideal. **1—2.**

MAD. FOREL (Crousse). Flower large to very large and full. Color medium shade of silvery pink. Good grower, bloomer, and with beautiful foliage. **2.**

SIMONE CHEVALIER (Dessert). This is one of the very large and very early Peonies. The color is described by the introducer as "pale lilac rose, tinged salmon, center flecked with crimson, silvery border." The growth is exceedingly strong and the plant a free and sure bloomer. **1—2.**

TRIOMPHE DE L'EXPOSITION DE LILLE (Calot). Large, full and beautifully imbricated flower of perfect form. Soft fleshy pink, with white reflex; petals exquisitely dotted and marbled with carmine. One of the very best reliable bloomers and almost unequalled in beauty among the light pinks, resembling and second only to Reine Hortense. **1—2.**

Section H

1 year, \$2.00; 2 year, \$3.25; 3 year, \$4.50 each.

Each variety can be supplied this year only in ages indicated by figures following description.

BARONESS SCHROEDER (Kelway). Very large and full creamy-white flower of unusual depth and softness. Splendid habit and bloomer; medium late. A flower to conjure with among connoisseurs. **1—2—3.**

CLAIRE DUBOIS (Crousse). Very large, globular flower, very full, convex, tufted; petals laciniated and incurved. Color of the finest original pink; glossy reflex. Late mid-season bloomer. A royal gem. **1—2.**

CLAUDE LORRAIN (Crousse). This variety is noted for the unusual length of time it continues in bloom. The growth is tall to very tall, and bears a large, compactly-built flower of a very fresh, pleasing, soft pink color. 1.

EUGENIE VERDIER (Calot). Flesh-pink, changing to white in center. An enormous flower coming on exceedingly long stems, gracefully drooping. This is one of the most distinct, impressive and beautiful Peonies in cultivation, and should not be confused with Eugene Verdier, from which it is entirely different. 1-2.

GROVER CLEVELAND (Terry). Deep, brilliant, crimson red; very large, full, and finely fringed globular flower. Color peculiarly rich and glowing, without a suggestion of purple. An American production of very great merit. 2.

JAMES KELWAY (Kelway). Large, milky-white flower with yellow at base of petals. Good grower; medium height and of good habit. 1-2.

MAD. LEMONIER (Calot). Exceedingly large, full flower, coming on exceptionally tall, erect stems. Color very distinct and attractive—lavender shading to white. This unusually fine Peony is very different from any other in cultivation, and should not be confused with Madame Lemoinier, also a Calot variety. 1-2.

PETITE RENEE (Dessert). Very odd carmine-pink, beautiful and airy flower, very different from any Peony yet produced. 2.

PIERRE DUCHARTRE (Crousse). Very large, cup-shaped, imbricated bloom, densely crowded with petals. Soft flesh-pink with glossy reflex; silvery border. One of the latest Peonies to bloom, and one of the most perfect and beautiful as well. 1-2.

PIERRE REIGNOUX (Dessert). Very large flowers of a rather unusual shade, termed by the introducer "tyrian rose"; center slightly flecked with crimson petals bordered with a silver sheen. The flowers come quite early and in great abundance. Very fragrant and most distinct. 2.

Section I

1 year, \$2.50; 2 year, \$3.75; 3 year, \$5.00 each.

Each variety can be supplied this year only in ages indicated by figures following description.

ADOLPHE ROUSSEAU (Dessert). Deep, brilliant red with metallic reflex; enormous flower on tall, stiff stems. Ideal habit. This variety attracts more general attention, and receives more admiration than any other red in our collection. Usually the flower, which is of extraordinary size and stands above surrounding sorts, is not very full, although on the strongest stems of established plants the flower is quite well built up to the center. Next to Mons. Martin Cahuzac it is about the darkest red and with no trace of purple. 1-2.

GLOIRE DE CHAS. GOMBAULT (Gombault). Pretty, globular flower, extra-full. Outer petals fleshy pink; center petals narrower and of a clear salmon-flesh color, shaded with apricot, with tuft of pink petals striped with carmine. Very showy and beautiful manicolored variety. 2.

LAMARTINE (Calot). Large, to immense, very full flower, semi-flat in form and of a most entrancing baby-pink shade with silvery reflex. Blooms quite early. Can be classed among the few very best peonies in cultivation when well-grown and while it should be in the garden of every connoisseur, it is not what might be called a profuse bloomer, and, in consequence, may be omitted where only a very small collection is desired. (Known also as Gigantea.) 1-2.

Section J

In this section will be found some of the rarest, most modern and wonderful Peonies yet produced. Sizes and prices are indicated at the end of each description. Where the price is \$8.00 or more for a one-year root, we will, if desired, sell a division, as indicated, which means a portion of a root as they are divided each fall to set out in the fields and which, a year later, become one-year roots. Invariably a division is what you will get of these rare varieties when purchasing of other growers, unless the size is specifically stated.

FRANCES WILLARD (Brand). In my opinion, this is one of the best two of the Brand peonies. The flower is ivory-white, large and full, reflecting yellow from the stamens at the base of petals throughout the entire flower. The habit is superb; the stems being very stout, holding up even after a heavy rain a flower of wonderful substance. Occasionally there will be found purplish red markings on the petals, center petals being usually edged very delicately. The foliage is yellowish green. Growth moderately tall. Fragrance sweet. **1 year, \$12.00.**
Division, \$8.00.

JUBILEE (Pleas). This variety has attracted much attention at the peony exhibitions of the past three or four years. The flower is extra large to enormous, and comes on very tall, strong growths, supported by magnificent foliage. The color is creamy ivory-white, fading to pure white, rather flat in form and full to the center. Fragrance fair. **1 year, \$20.00.**
Division, \$15.00.

KARL ROSENFIELD (Rosenfield). A quite new red of American origin, and, in my opinion, one of the very greatest red peonies in existence. The habit is strong and upright; the flower very large and full, and of a deep, brilliant, blood-red, showing no trace of purple. This is a variety which every lover of red peonies should surely possess. **1 year, \$4.00; 2 year, \$6.00.**

LADY ALEXANDRA DUFF (Kelway). There has been probably more "wrangling" over this variety than over any other one peony. We are, however, absolutely satisfied that the variety we have is the true one and which we describe as follows:—The growth is tall, strong and erect. The flower is very large, full but loosely built with petals of exceptional size. The buds are pinkish, marked with carmine and open to a rosy white flower, showing center of yellow stamens. This is invariably a prize winner wherever shown. **1 year, \$15.00.**
Division, \$10.00.

LE CYGNE (Lemoine). This variety is now generally conceded by Peony experts to be the nearest to perfection that a Peony has ever reached. The root sends up comparatively few shoots of moderate height, but they are very strong and bear a very full, large flower, densely packed with small petals of a true cup-shaped form, i. e., the center is lower than the outer petals and the latter diminish in size as the center is approached. The color at first is milky-white, fading to pure white. Fragrance good. From a propagator's standpoint this Queen of all Peonies increases slowly, and as a result of this and its exceptional quality, the price is likely to remain high for many years to come. **1 year, \$25.00.** **Division, \$15.00.**

MAD. JULES DESSERT (Dessert). In this variety we have a remarkable new sort, the color of which might be expressed as a straw white tinged with flesh. The flower is large to very large, beautifully imbricated and of distinct formation. The habit is ideal, the flowers coming on long, upright stems. **1 year, \$8.00;** **Division, \$5.00;** **2 year, \$12.00.**

MARTHA BULLOCH (Brand). This, I am inclined to believe, is the greatest of all the Brand seedlings. The flower is one of the largest of all Peonies. The form is semi-flat, cup shaped and color a medium pink in center, shading to light pink as

the edge of the flower is approached. The flower is very full, evenly built and of a pleasing formation. Foliage light green and rather narrow. Fragrance good. Growth very tall. **1 year, \$20.00. Division, \$15.00.**

MILTON HILL (Richardson). Like most of Richardson's varieties this is one of the latest Peonies to bloom, and is considered one of his greatest productions. As the flower opens up in bird nest form it is found to be crowded with small, salmon-pink petals of the most exquisite and pure shade, and despite what you may have said of any Peony which preceded it, you will now declare that this variety is incomparable. Good, strong grower with very distinct yellowish-green foliage. I warmly commend this to the connoisseur. **2 year, \$6.00.**

MONS. MARTIN CAHUZAC (Dessert). Large, full and well-formed flower. A solid ball of very deep maroon with blackish lustre, changing to metallic. Good, erect habit. A variety of surpassing merit and by far the darkest Peony yet produced. This is one of the few Peonies the price of which does not lessen with age. The demand keeps apace with the supply, and prevents any accumulation of stock. **1 year, \$5.00.**

MONT BLANC (Lemoine). Very full, milky-white flower, somewhat on the color of *Le Cygne*. While we have had this variety several years, we have had it blooming only on two-year-old plants, owing to limited stock and frequent propagation, and while it is praised very highly by other growers, we, perhaps, have not had it established long enough to warrant us in placing it on the same plane as *Le Cygne*, *Solange*, *Therese* and a few others. **1 year, \$8.00. Division, \$5.00.**

PRIMEVERE (Lemoine). This was introduced a few years ago as a real yellow Peony. Like the other yellow Peonies, however, it has a single row of large guard petals which are of a dull white, splashed more or less on the outside with red. The center, of a semi-bomb formation, is a rich sulphur yellow. The plant is a tall, graceful grower and a good bloomer. Fragrance very good. A very distinct addition to the so-called yellow Peonies. **1 year, \$7.50.**

REINE HORTENSE (Calot). This I consider to be about the finest all-around pink Peony in existence. The flower is large, full and very evenly formed, moderately light, even pink in shade; buds crimson flecked. Habit very good, and always a reliable bloomer, every flower developing perfectly. A real diamond. **1 year, \$3.00; 2 year, \$5.00.**

ROSA BONHEUR (Dessert). One of Dessert's new and charming creations. The plant, while rather dwarf in growth, yields abundantly a large and prettily-formed flower of light, fleshy pink. **1 year, \$10.00. Division, \$7.50.**

SARAH BERNHARDT (Lemoine). One of Lemoine's recent gems, and should not be confounded with the old Sarah Bernhardt of Dessert, now listed under *Umbellata Rosea*. This is a really great Peony, soft, even pink in shade, the flower being very large and full, evenly formed, and produced in profusion on a very strong-growing plant. **1 year, \$4.00; 2 year, \$6.00.**

SOLANGE (Lemoine). Here is a gem that I hate to barter for mere lucre. To say that it is one of the most distinct and remarkable Peonies grown would be to convey but little. The blooms are large to very large and very full, and of beautiful rounded form. The color, however, is its chief attraction and very difficult to popularly describe. Generally speaking, it is a white after the flower has been open for some time. Were you to take a bowl of cream, add a little coffee, and could gather and mix in the rosy glow of a morning sunrise, you would get pretty nearly the effect this flower gives us upon opening. A late-blooming Peony and a great one. **1 year, \$10.00; Division, \$7.00; 2 year, \$15.00.**

THERESE (Dessert). This is one of Dessert's greatest accomplishments, and had he produced but this one Peony, it would have been sufficient to engrave his name on the memory of every Peony lover for all time. The flower is full to the center, and while immense in size, is one of the most delicately beautiful Peonies in existence. The color is a wonderful blending of

delicate pink, lavender and white. In addition to its wonderful quality as a flower, it is a profuse and sure bloomer, every flower developing perfectly in every season during the seven or eight years we have had it. Even the smallest roots invariably develop flowers the first year. The bush is of splendid, symmetrical habit, and distributes its marvelous flowers quite evenly. **1 year, \$7.50.** **Division, \$5.00.**

TOURANGELLE (Dessert). A quite new variety, remarkable for its exquisite freshness and beauty. The flower, blooming rather late, is large to very large, and comes on long, graceful stems. The bloom is quite densely packed with rather delicate petals of a pearly-white shade, deepening in the center to an exquisite flesh and rose tint. After several years' trial, I am glad to give this a place in our collection, and in doing so, I put it very close to the top. **1 year, \$12.00.** **Division, \$8.00.**

WALTER FAXON (Richardson). A flower remarkable chiefly for its very attractive and unusual shade—a coral pink. The bloom is full and medium large to large, with petals of a silky texture. While we have many pink Peonies, there is none other of this unusual and striking shade. **1 year, \$10.00.** **Division, \$7.50.**

Single Herbaceous Peonies

In foliage, and habit of growth and bloom, these are similar to the double Peonies. The flower, however, has but one row of petals with a wealth of golden stamens in center, making a graceful and very attractive bloom which is fast becoming the idol of many of the most "cultured" Peony lovers.

DEFIANCE (Terry). One of the most striking of the single Peonies. In color between a pink and a red. The plant is a very strong grower and enormously productive. The general effect is exceptionally showy. **2 year, \$1.50.**

PRINCESS MATHILDE (Dessert). A charming French variety, china pink, splashed and tipped with silvery white. Large flower; good grower and of fine habit. Unquestionably the best single pink. **2 year, \$3.50.**

ROSY DAWN. Blush-white, changing on opening to pure white. Flower very large and one of the very finest of the single whites. **2 year, \$3.00.**

THE MOOR. Very showy and rich, deep crimson-red flower of unusual lasting qualities. Good grower and profuse, sure bloomer. Splendid for massing effects. Decidedly the best very dark single red. **2 year, \$2.00.**

Mixed Peonies

I offer these only in "divisions," by which is meant separated roots, just as we divide all stock for first plantings. These are made up exclusively from named varieties of which we have at the time an apparent surplus stock and of a few varieties which for one reason or another we have decided to discard. We endeavor to keep our public offering not to exceed 100 varieties, and as new and more worthy varieties are admitted, others must be thrown out. There is not an unnamed variety in the entire lot. We cannot sell these to color, but planted where this feature is not important, they will prove most useful for quantities of cut blooms and mass effect, and occasionally a choice variety will be found in the lot, as sometimes, for one reason or another, labels on roots become detached, and these are put into the mixed assortment.

No orders accepted for less than 25 roots, and no discount from prices below.

\$18.00 per 100; \$10.00 per 50; \$6.00 per 25.

Peony Collections

These are made up from my best stock, and are especially recommended to any one desiring a small collection and who is unacquainted with the merits of the different sorts. The Standard Collection embraces the best among the low-cost sorts. The Royal Collection is made up of gems of the first water, and will make a Peony enthusiast of any one possessing an appreciation of the beautiful in Nature. The Diamond Collection is for those who desire something extraordinarily fine and rare and not so likely to be found in one's neighbor's garden.

STANDARD COLLECTION

		1-year	2-year
AUGUSTIN D'HOUR	Sec. B.....	\$0.75	\$1.20
BOULE DE NEIGE	" C.....	.85	1.30
CANARI	" B.....	.75	1.20
CHARLEMAGNE	" B.....	.75	1.20
DUCHESS D'ORLEANS	" A.....	.60	1.00
EDULIS SUPERBA	" A.....	.60	1.00
JENNY LIND	" B.....	.75	1.20
LA TULIPE	" C.....	.85	1.30
MAD. BARILLET-DESCHAMPS	" C.....	.85	1.30
MAD. CALOT	" C.....	.85	1.30
PHILOMELA	" C.....	.85	1.30
RUBENS	" B.....	.75	1.20
		<hr/>	<hr/>
The set for.....		\$9.20	\$14.50
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		\$7.50	\$12.00

ROYAL COLLECTION

		1-year	2-year
ATROSANGUINEA	Sec. E.....	\$1.15	\$1.80
COURONNE D'OR	" D.....	1.00	1.70
DUCHESS DE NEMOURS	" C.....	.85	1.30
EUGENE BIGOT	" F.....	1.30	2.25
FESTIVA MAXIMA	" D.....	1.00	1.70
JEANNE D'ARC	" C.....	.85	1.30
LIVINGSTONE	" D.....	1.00	1.70
MAD. DE GALHAU	" D.....	1.00	1.70
MAD. DE VERNEVILLE	" C.....	.85	1.30
MAD. DUCEL	" D.....	1.00	1.70
MARIE LEMOINE	" D.....	1.00	1.70
OCTAVIE DEMAY	" D.....	1.00	1.70
		<hr/>	<hr/>
The set for.....		\$12.00	\$19.85
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		\$10.00	\$17.00

DIAMOND COLLECTION

		1-year	2-year
BARONESS SCHROEDER	Sec. H.....	\$2.00	\$3.25
CLAIRE DUBOIS	" H.....	2.00	3.25
EUGENIE VERDIER	" H.....	2.00	3.25
GERMAINE BIGOT	" G.....	1.50	2.50
GRANDIFLORA	" G.....	1.50	2.50
KARL ROSENFIELD	" J.....	4.00	6.00
MAD. EMILE LEMOINE	" G.....	1.50	2.50
MAD. LEMONIER	" H.....	2.00	3.25
MONS. MARTIN CAHUZAC	" J.....	5.00	*5.00
REINE HORTENSE	" J.....	3.00	5.00
SARAH BERNHARDT	" J.....	4.00	6.00
SIMONE CHEVALIER	" G.....	1.50	2.50
		<hr/>	<hr/>
The set for.....		\$30.00	\$45.00
		<hr/>	<hr/>
* Can be supplied only in one-year size this season.		\$25.00	\$40.00

The De Luxe Collection

Occasionally we have an inquiry for a collection of the very choicest and rarest Peonies in existence. I am, therefore, adding this year a collection of a dozen of these at a special price. The roots on all orders for this collection will be dug and packed by me personally, and they will all be one-year-old since divided. Those that gave some bloom the past June will be selected and each one should bloom the first season after planting if the roots are set at the proper depth and in accordance with our directions.

Frances Willard	.....	\$12.00
Jubilee	.....	20.00
Lady Alex. Duff	.....	15.00
Le Cygne	.....	25.00
Mad. Jules Dessert	.....	8.00
Martha Bulloch	.....	20.00
Mont Blanc	.....	8.00
Primevere	.....	7.50
Solange	.....	10.00
Therese	.....	7.50
Tourangelle	.....	12.00
Walter Faxon	.....	10.00
		<hr/>
	The Set for	\$155.00
		\$135.00

Fragrant Peonies

In Low and Medium Priced Sorts

Where a variety is especially fragrant, this quality is usually noted in the description. Occasionally, the planter desires to select the most fragrant varieties and in order to save his time and make it unnecessary to go through the entire list, I am noting below a few varieties which are especially fragrant.

Avalanche	Mad. de Verneville
Boule de Neige	Mad. Emile Lemoine
Couronne d'Or	Marie Jacquin
Duchess de Nemours	Mons. Dupont
Festiva Maxima	Mons. Krelage
La Tulipe	Philomele
Louise Renault	Pierre Reignoux
Mad. Barillet-Deschamps	Solfatare

EXHIBITION

In June of each year we give an exhibition, at the nurseries, of both Roses and Peonies. Peonies are usually at their best the second week of June. Roses attain their height about the first week of July—this retarded flowering being caused by pinching the young shoots back in May to form a bushy plant.

Seasons vary, however, and so if you really intend to come, advise me of the fact and your name will be entered for notification at the proper time.

The Test

What I Have Done for Others, I Can Do for You

The following extracts from letters will, I think, convince the intending purchaser, who does not personally know of the superior quality of my roots, that they *are* the best that skilled and loving effort can produce. These letters have all come to us entirely unsolicited and within the past year and are published here by permission of the authors afterward obtained.

Hollyrood, Lexington, Ky., Oct. 12, 1920.

Peonies arrived in fine shape and are certainly beauties.

MRS. J. L. DODGE.

119 Walnut Ave., Boston 19, Mass., Aug. 7, 1920.

I visited my camp at head of Moosehead Lake, (Maine), July 1st and found all my Peonies (your roots) in full bloom and they appeared to look better than ever after the past severe Winter without any protection except the snow blanket which nature gave them. I firmly believe the Peony would care for itself in the Arctic. Lumbermen and others who remained in that section last Winter informed me that for weeks at times the glass registered 25 to 30 degrees below zero.

FRED G. HOFFMAN.

State Normal School, Whitewater, Wis., May 31, 1921.

I think it is only fair to tell you how much pleased I am with the Peonies which I received from you last November. I picked a beautiful bouquet yesterday (Memorial Day) and another this morning. The plants will average ten blooms to a plant. How is that for the first year? It is a surprise to everybody here. I bought some plants from another grower and set them out at the time I set yours, paying almost the same price per plant. One plant of yours would make six plants of those I obtained from the other grower. It will be at least two years before I can look for any blossoms, and by that time the Peterson Peonies will be prizes.

F. S. HYER,
(President).

1 Avondale Road, Ridgewood, N. J., Oct. 15, 1920.

It was indeed a very pleasant surprise to observe the fine quality of all the roots you sent. I personally planted them last Saturday afternoon and called my neighbor's attention to the fine stock. He had never seen such heavy roots before. I am still waiting for Peonies, obtained from another grower and planted about three years ago, to bloom, and of another lot obtained from still another grower last Spring I was obliged to dig up and throw away at least half. I now look forward to next Spring's flowers as a result of my planting your Peonies.

FREDERICK LANGE, JR.

In response to our request to use his testimonial as above, Mr. Lange writes under date of June 30th in part as follows:

"Have no objection to your quoting me as saying that I am well pleased with the Peony roots purchased of you. I was indeed greatly surprised to see blooms this season on each and every root obtained from you last Fall."

90-94 St. Peter St., Montreal, Canada, Oct. 16, 1920.

I am so much pleased with the roots you sent me that I cannot help advertising your firm wherever I go. Good firms should be known all over this country, and I shall endeavor to spread your name here in Montreal as the greatest Peony grower on this side of the ocean.

A. LEFORT.

264 Gibbs Ave., Newport, R. I., June 18, 1921.

I want to write and tell you that the Peonies I got last September are wonderful and full of magnificent blooms.

CHARLES E. MORRISON.

Athens, Ohio, Oct. 29, 1920.

The roots you sent were magnificent. Am already planning a much larger order for next year.

CHAS. G. MATTHEWS.

Under date of June 30th, Mr. Matthews in giving us permission to quote him as above says:

"Will also add that the roots bloomed finely this Spring."

195 Globe Ave., Jamaica, N. Y., Oct. 5, 1920.

I am in receipt of the Peonies you sent on October 3rd and they certainly look good to me. They are so large and healthy looking for one-year-old plants.

EDW. J. MCKEE.

280 High St., Petersburg, Va., Nov. 1, 1920.

I thank you for the excellent quality and packing of the plants. Your plants come in better condition than any others of about seven different firms.

MRS. SEMPLE.

1226 Helen Ave., Detroit, Mich., June 11, 1921.

Last Fall I purchased some Peonies from you and I now wish to express my admiration for the plants which you supplied. Despite the fact that they were only set out in the late Fall, they have certainly exceeded my expectations, producing a great number of magnificent blooms. The bushes have been the constant object of admiration and comment by neighbors and friends.

EDWARD J. SAVAGE.

In response to my request that we might use his letter as above, Mr. Savage, under date of July 2, 1921, replied in part as follows:

"My satisfaction with the Peonies you supplied has been so great that I am willing to assist in any way possible to recommend them and to help others to realize the absolute quality of your roots."

Crest-o'-Hill, Chillicothe, Ohio, Oct. 25, 1920.

The Peonies ordered from you arrived and are planted as per your directions. They are wonderful roots.

MRS. BURTON E. STEVENSON.

224 E. Jersey St., Elizabeth, N. J., Oct. 11, 1920.

The Peony roots you sent me were most satisfactory in every way. Such beautiful, large roots I have never seen and I wish I could send all prospective buyers of Peonies to you for I know they would all be as delighted as I am.

MRS. ARTHUR STERN.

Aurora, Ont., Canada, June 19, 1921.

The Peony roots I got from you last Fall all did well. They were only one-year-old roots and each one gave me four blooms.

T. J. SPAULDING.

Manchester, N. H., November 9, 1920.

I received my Peonies in fine shape. I have seen Peony roots before, but nothing like yours. They make three of any I've seen.

CHARLES THEISS.

Intervale, N. H., Sept. 28, 1920.

The Peony roots came yesterday in fine condition and are beautiful roots. It will give me pleasure to continue to recommend you to others.

ADELAIDE E. WHEELER.

Athol, Mass., Oct. 4, 1920.

I cannot refrain from expressing to you my complete satisfaction with the splendid roots sent as well as with the very careful and efficient manner in which they were packed.

F. E. WING.

Under date of June 29, 1921, Mr. Wing writes:
"The Peonies this season came fully up to my expectations.
They were fine."

67 Gates Ave., Montclair, N. J., Sept. 27, 1920.

Peony roots received in good condition. Never saw such fine ones. They appear even better than those purchased in 1919. I most heartily commend the invariable quality of Peony roots you furnish. I have, to my sorrow, been induced through a friend to purchase Peonies elsewhere, but my experience in doing this has been such I shall hereafter confine my Peony purchases to your firm as there have never been any mistakes or misrepresentations.

B. T. WILCOX.



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George H. Peterson, Inc., Fair Lawn, N. J.

**PLEASE USE THIS
ORDER SHEET**

DATE.....

NAME

NO.

P. O.
ADDRESS

REC'D

EXPRESS ADDRESS (if different from above)

SHIPPED

SHIP ABOUT

**Amount
Enclosed**

64

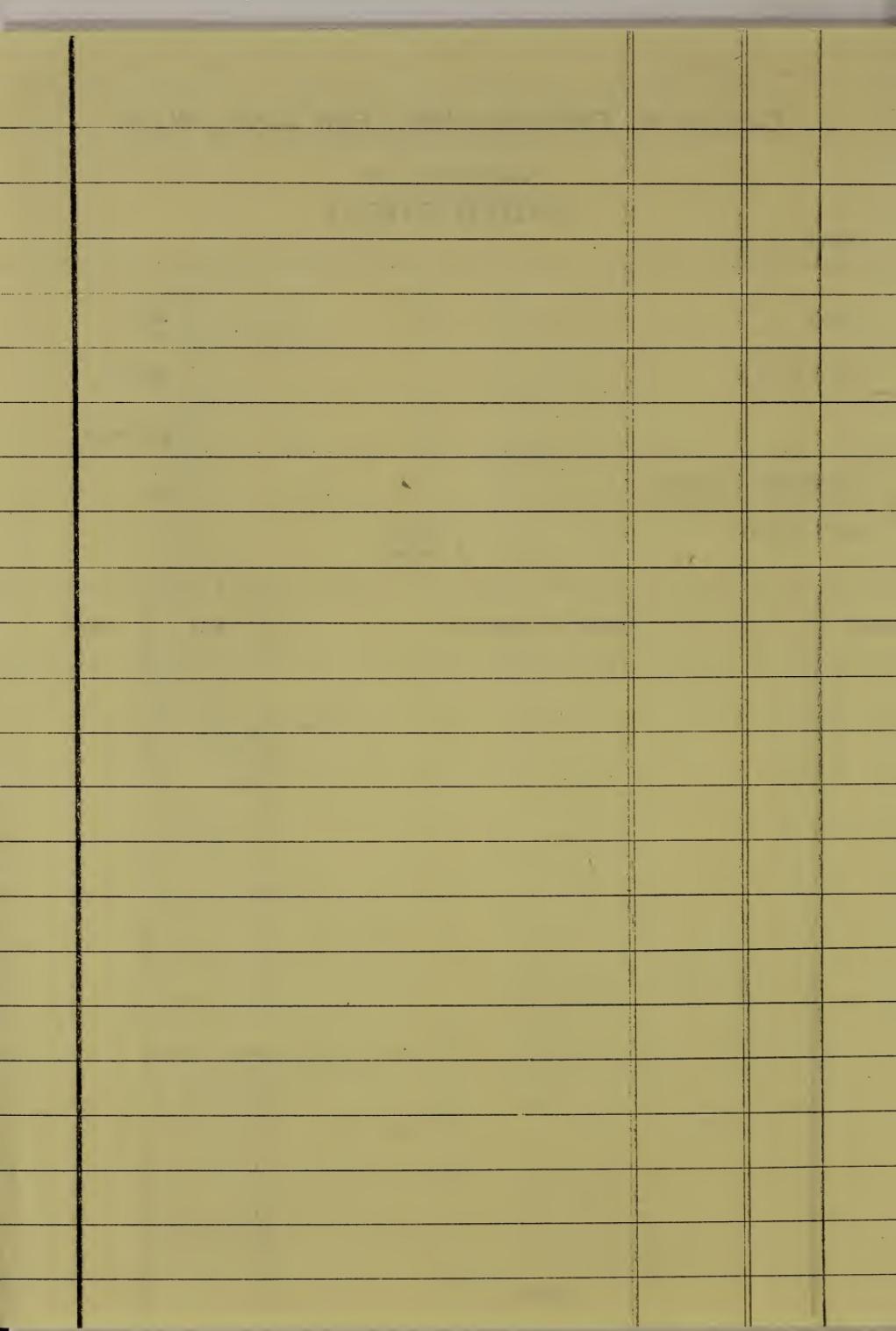
Quantity

NAME OF VARIETY

AGE

PRICE

(OVER)



“A Little Book About Roses”

Is the title of my annual Rose catalogue, published February 1st. It is a unique and beautiful booklet, which has found a warm place in the hearts of thousands of Rose-lovers the world over. It represents a business that, for quality, stands alone, and which increases yearly beyond my anticipations and preparation.

My entire time the year 'round is exclusively devoted to the cultivation and the shipping, to various parts of the world, of the Rose and Peony, and among those who know, it is admitted, without question, that in these two flowers I have set a standard of excellence never before attained. The unusual and immediate success of my patrons is such as often to find vent in the exclamation, "Oh, had I only known of you before!"

This little book tells you in detail how to succeed with the Queen of Flowers, and you will be surprised to find how easy the successful cultivation of "Peterson Roses" really is. And then, too, this booklet is a work of art.

It is sent free to customers—to any one upon receipt of 10 cents (to assure appreciation) in coin or stamps. Copies of the 1921 edition can still be supplied.

